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SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE TASTE RACE PREP NOW, EAT KILLER BRISKET LATER (page 23)



SCENE (page 14)

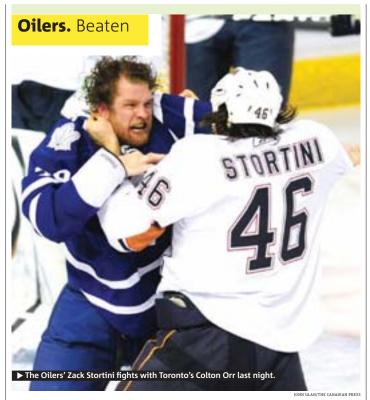
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Wednesday, December 15, 2010 www.metronews.ca

GOLDEN SWAN



News worth sharing.



Oilers lose for third time in four

The Toronto Maple Leafs kicked off their Western Canada road trip with a 4-1 victory over the Oilers last night. Jordan Eberle tallied the lone goal for Edmonton. Story, page 27.

Cars not a priority

Pedestrian-friendly ideas for warehouse district {page 4}

Violent protests rock Italy

Berlusconi survives two confidence votes {page 6}

Oilsands not linked to cancer: Report

Oilsands don't deserve all criticism, but oversight has to improve: Scientists Noval Society report out today

Alberta's oilsands don't deserve all the bad press they've been getting, but the governments that regulate them do, concludes a new study by a panel of some of Canada's top scientists.

In a report to be released today, a sevenmember panel from the Royal Society of Canada found there's "no credible evidence" that contaminants from the oilsands are boosting cancer levels in downstream communities.

It also found that the Athabasca River isn't currently threatened by industrial water use.

But the panel — which was convened by the society, independent of any government, company or non-governmental organization — concluded there are considerable risks posed by oilsands development that aren't being addressed by either the Alberta or federal government.

"Our governments — federal and provincial — need to show some leadership in ... clearly demonstrating responsibility in how the oilsands are currently developed now and in the future," says the report's executive summary, released in advance of the full report. "The current visibility of relevant provincial and federal agencies ... in dealing with the major environmental challenges is low and is generally not in line with the scale of those challenges."

Despite the criticism, Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner welcomed the report. "It raises a number of issues that require attention — some of which are already being addressed — and puts into perspective the actual impacts of oilsands development," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Dead man discovered in truck

Homicide investigators are probing a west Edmonton neighbourhood for clues after a man was found dead in a pickup truck in a back alley.

Police responded to a call near 116 Avenue and 127 Street NW in

Inglewood just after 1 p.m. The victim was found in the front seat of the black truck. The windows of the truck had been smashed.

Trina Quinn, who lives in an apartment building at the other end of the alley, walked down the pathway at 8:25 a.m. but didn't notice anything out of the ordinary.

She said that in the year she has lived in the area, she has seen police a few times.

"But I've never seen anything like this before," she said while standing on a street corner across the street from the scene, about half a block away from Inglewood Elementary School.

Quinn has three children — aged five, three and five months — and her oldest attends kindergarten at the school, which held students for approximately 30 minutes after regular dismissal time to ensure their safety.

"It's scary," she said.
"It's right in the middle
between my house and the
school."

HEATHER MCINTYRE



Kids on Cloud 9 after plane ride

Flights with Santa and Mrs. Claus are a Christmas treat for sick children
 This was the fifth year for Telus Santa Flights

Four-year-old Peyton Hall was most excited to meet Santa Claus when she arrived at the City Centre Airport yesterday.

But as she boarded a Cessna Citation jet to take a 45-minute spin around the skies of Edmonton, she constantly peered out the window to search for Santa's reindeer.

"We're just really thankful to be able to try something different that we don't normally do," said Peyton's mom, Lisa.

Peyton was one of 12 children who had a chance to board one of three flights along with Santa and Mrs. Claus, thanks to Telus and the Kids With Cancer Society.

Peyton was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma in August, meaning she has a tumour in her brain stem — an illness for which there is no

cure. The treatments wound up mid-October, just in time for a trip to Disneyworld for Halloween, courtesy of the Make a Wish Foundation.

Yesterday was her second plane ride.

"It's a great opportunity," said her dad, Jason, of being offered the chance to take flight. "They've done so much for the kids that have these horrible situations."

HEATHER MCINTURE

Away we go

- For the first two years of Santa Flights, Telus partnered with the Ronald McDonald House, then the Make a Wish Foundation for the next two, before partnering up with the Kids With Cancer Society this year.
- The jet used for the flights seats nine and travels 966 kilometres per hour.





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MCDECTIONS

Construction safety a concern: Minister

Alberta's employment minister says he is disappointed with the number of safety problems government inspectors have found at construction sites.

Thomas Lukaszuk says over a six-week period safety officers found more than 200 violations and had to issue 39 stop work orders.

He says to say he is disappointed would be an understatement.

Lukaszuk says he expects better of the industry.

Fall hazards, including a lack of proper fall protection, top the list of safety violations.

The department plans to focus inspections on forklifts, young workers and residential construction in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Book prize | Provingets boost | Provingets |

Sponsorship from the Edmonton Arts Council and Audreys Books has boosted the cash prize for the 2011 City of Edmonton Book Prize.

The Writers Guild of Alberta and the City of Edmonton announced yesterday the prize is now \$10,000. It's now one of the largest city book prizes in the country.

Province plans police reforms

The Alberta government is moving to make police forces in the province more efficient and accountable. Solicitor General Frank Oberle has released a plan that calls for police to share information more closely. He says the government is also working on a system to better deal with police misconduct complaints.

Parking loses priority in warehouse district

• Council looking for pedestrian-friendly residential development





Those nestled in what is known as Edmonton's urban warehouse district are cautiously optimistic about a five-year pilot project — especially in regards to residential parking.

Zoning for the down-

Zoning for the down-town plan was approved by council Monday and, moving forward, housing developers will not be required to include parking in the district, which stretches from 105 to 109 streets, north from Jasper Avenue to 104 Avenue.

Tom McFall, executive director of the Alberta Arts Council on 106 Street and 101 Avenue, said he is drawn to areas that "aren't car places," listing Queen Street in Toronto and the hub of Portland, Ore., as attractive for that reason.

Surface lots

Mo more Also approved Monday was a plan to prevent more free-standing parking lots from being built downtown, though allowing customer spaces for specific businesses.

adding such areas focus on walkability and transit, fitting into the city's goal for downtown Edmonton.

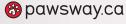
Duncan Fraser, senior planner and project manager, said developing an underground parking space ranges from \$30,000 to \$70,000, deterring many developers. Including the parking can make for expensive construction and housing costs.

Coun. Kerry Diotte said the market will determine whether or not the plan works.



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Alberta lagging behind in health care: Report

▶ Frontier Centre assesses how province meets needs of residents ▶ Ontario tops rankings for third year



A new report released by the Frontier Centre For Public Policy has found a "sizable gap" between Alberta's health-care system and that of top-performing Canadian provinces.

The independent organization's 2010 Canada Health Consumer Index, released yesterday morning, ranks Alberta in a tie for seventh out of the 10 provinces and dead last in the wait-times category.

Lethbridge resident Ally Keith knows all too well the frustrations that come with booking a surgery. When she consid-



ered postponing an operation in Calgary to have her tonsils removed, doctors told her it could take up to two years to reschedule.

"I was a little shocked," said Keith, who went ahead with the surgery yesterday.

"That's a long time ... I thought, 'I have got to get this done now."

Ben Eisen, author of the Frontier Centre report, said Alberta has seemingly made little progress in improving situations like the one faced by Keith.

"In the specific case of Alberta, for the eight indicators we looked at for wait times, there wasn't one of them in which Alberta earned a score of good," he said.







Violence greets Berlusconi's victory

Down-to-the-wire confidence votes capped hours of tension inside and outside parliament

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi won back-toback confidence votes yesterday in the Italian parliament, narrowly surviving one of the toughest fights of his political life. But violent protests greeted his victory, as rioters torched cars, smashed windows and clashed with police.

Riot police fired tear gas to try to disperse the crowds in Rome after earlier trying to cordon off the area around parliament. Clouds of tear gas and orange flares engulfed some streets. Shops full of Christmas goods hurriedly closed down, and employees at one bank cowered in fear as waves of stone-throwing youths swept by.

youths swept by.

Tensions inside parliament's lower house had boiled over earlier in the day, as lawmakers pushed and shoved each other, forcing a brief suspension in the voting.

Ultimately, Berlusconi survived the Chamber of Deputies' no-confidence motion by just three votes after a more comfortable victory in the Senate earlier in the day. The outcome of the highly uncertain votes

attested to Berlusconi's uncanny ability to survive, even when nearly all indications pointed to a government collapse. Yet it also indicated he will have a difficult time governing, given the narrow margin.

Berlusconi had been weakened after a year dominated by sex scandals, corruption charges against some of his aides and a breakup with a close political ally.

But the 74-year-old battled back, swaying a few crucial lawmakers to vote in his favour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOLAR SYSTEM

Volcanoes of ice on Titan, say scientists

Scientists said yesterday they have found the best evidence yet of ice volcanoes on Saturn's giant moon Titan.

Unlike volcanoes on Earth, such a volcano on Titan may spew ice and hydrocarbons instead of molten lava.

"We finally have some

proof that Titan is an active world," said geophysicist Randolph Kirk of the U.S. Geological Survey, who presented the findings.

the findings.

The latest evidence comes from the international Cassini spacecraft, which spied two peaks over 3,000 feet tall and what looked like old volcanic flows. Researchers said the landforms resembled Mount Etna in Italy or Laki volcano in Iceland.

There's no sign of volcanic activity on Titan, though scientists are keeping watch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Immigrant docs faked, consultant charged

A B.C. immigration consultant has been charged under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Canada Border Services Agency says Gongyou (Jason) Mo has been charged with seven offences dealing with counselling misrepresentation. Mo also faces a single count of forgery for allegedly making false documents. THE CANDIAN PRESS



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Parties find consensus on pardons system

• Reforms last June doubled waiting times for applications on serious crimes, including sex offences

A government move to flush out critics of reforms to the criminal pardons system has highlighted one key point of agreement: Convicted pedophiles should never be eligible.

Liberal, New Democrat and Bloc Quebecois MPs all made the same argument during two hours of debate at a special House of Commons committee hearing yesterday.

"What do we want to target? Pedophiles," Bloc Quebecois MP Maria Mourani said during an hour-long diatribe at the Public Safety committee. The all-party consensus

The all-party consensus may not have been what the Conservatives hoped to see as the headline outcome.

The government has been hammering the Liberals, in particular, over their refusal to wave the pardons legislation through unaltered.

The Tories' trump card — repeated almost daily — has been to accuse the Opposition of siding with criminals, especially sex offenders, rather than victims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legislation

The reforms were a reaction to the case of convicted sex offender Graham James, who had been quietly pardoned under the old rules in 2007.

However, no government amendment deals with the most controversial aspect — a new rule that anyone convicted of more than three criminal offences is ineligible for life from applying for a record suspension.



Muslims enter month of mourning

Muharram is a month of mourning in remembrance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed. The mourning reaches its climax on the 10th day, known as Ashura, on which the forces of Yazid killed the 72 individuals who fought, including Imam Hussain and his family and supporters. The women and children left living were made prisoners and transported to Yazid's court in Damascus.

Ghana starts oil production

The West African nation of Ghana is poised to begin pumping oil for the first time, kicking off a lucrative new industry expected to bring \$1 billion annually to a part of the world where most people still get by on less than \$2 a day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dismissed files to be reviewed

Complaints of wrongdoing in the public service that were dismissed by the former integrity commissioner, Christiane Ouimet, will be reviewed, government and commission officials said yester-

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Child pornography ring busted

An international child pornography ring spanning three continents where members posted explicit images on an Internet message board has led to the arrests of more than a dozen people, authorities said yesterday.



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Assange waits in jail

Court grants bail, but Sweden appeals release of WikiLeaks founder Release would include strict conditions Supporters posted bail

A British judge granted Julian Assange bail yesterday but the WikiLeaks founder will remain in custody for at least another 48 hours after Swedish prosecutors said would challenge the deci-

sion. Assange, a 39-year-old Australian, has already spent a week in a British jail following his surrender to police in a Swedish sex-crimes investigation.

He denies any wrongdo-

ing and his lawyers say he plans to fight Sweden's extradition request.

Britain's High Court will hear the Swedish appeal, although it wasn't immediately clear when. Assange's lawyer, Mark

had already evaporated, calling it "unfortunate" that "the Swedes won't abide by the umpire's decision.

Stephens, said his client's

relief at the bail decision

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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COLES

Gas line blamed in hotel blast that killed 3 Albertans

Prosecutors say new evidence suggests a gas-line leak probably caused the Nov. 14 explosion that killed five Canadians and two Mexicans at a hotel on Mexico's Caribbean coast.

The attorney general of the state where the hotel is located says investigators found an unauthorized extension of a gas line under the hotel lounge where the blast occurred.

Attorney General Francisco Alor says the line had apparently been damaged and leaked prior to the

Officials had earlier said accumulation swamp or sewage gas may have fuelled the blast.

Alor said yesterday that those may have con-tributed, but the heatinggas line appears to be the main culprit and may have been set off by a spark from an electric switch or

Five Canadians, including three from Alberta, were killed in the explosion, along with two hotel workers, and 18 others, many of them from Ontario, were injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers jump to deaths in fire

Dozens of people were killed after a devastating blaze raced through a garment factory that supplies major multinationals such as Gap and JCPenney near Bangladesh's capital Dhaka yesterday.

Many of the dead included trapped workers who iumped from the smouldering building engulfed by flames, witnesses at the scene said.

Monir Hossain, a local

journalist at the scene, told The Associated Press the blaze broke out on the two upper floors during lunch break. A gate on a stairwell was locked, trapping people inside the factory, he quoted witnesses as saying.

Interior Minister Shahara Khatun said after visiting the site her ministry would probe whether it was related to recent protests at textile factories over wages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



300 stranded in SW Ontario snow storm

Military helicopters used in rescue effort 237 people airlifted off highway

beach vacation, truckers hauling loads, commuters and even a British hip-hop star unwittingly joined a 300-strong fraternity of nd motorists in vol. snowbound trapped in vehicles overnight as a fierce storm walloped southwestern Ontario.

With everyone believed to have been rescued from snow-swept Highway 402 by late yesterday afternoon, all that was left was a final sweep to make sure no one was missed and a massive cleanup.

Some 300 people were thought to be stranded when drifting snow and zero visibility forced

police to close a 30-kilometre stretch of the highway east of Sarnia on Monday.

Motorists had no option but to hunker down in their vehicles and wait for help.

That aid came with the daylight, as military helicopters and buses were employed to take 237 people to safety.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

300 Drifting snow and zero visibility trapped about 300 people in their vehicles on Highway 402, about 30 kilometres east of Sarnia.





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Forestry sector will profit this year: Report

▶ Industry hit hard in the recession ▶ Wood products exports expected to have grown by 2.4% in 2010

The forestry industry will return to profitability this year due to a mini-boom in the Canadian housing market, a slight improvement in U.S. demand, and growing exports to China, a report by the Conference Board of Canada says.

"After three years of losses, a surge in prices and demand lined up favourably early this year for the industry," said Jacqueline Palladini, an economist at the Conference Board.

Canadian production likely grew by 10.6 per cent

Housing is key

The Conference Board predicts the industry's rebound will continue in 2011, but the pace of arowth will slow.

- A slowdown in the Canadian housing market next year will reduce the number of new homes being built and could hurt demand.
- Uncertainty in the American housing market also remains a key concern.

in 2010, according to the Conference Board's latest review of the industry.

Revenues are increasing this year for the first time since 2004. Despite rising costs, the industry is expected to post a profit of \$476 million in 2010.

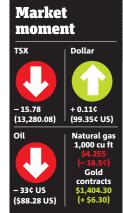
The forestry sector was particularly hard hit during the recent recession due to slower demand for lumber for construction that compounded problems caused by a decline in demand for paper paper and newsprint.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

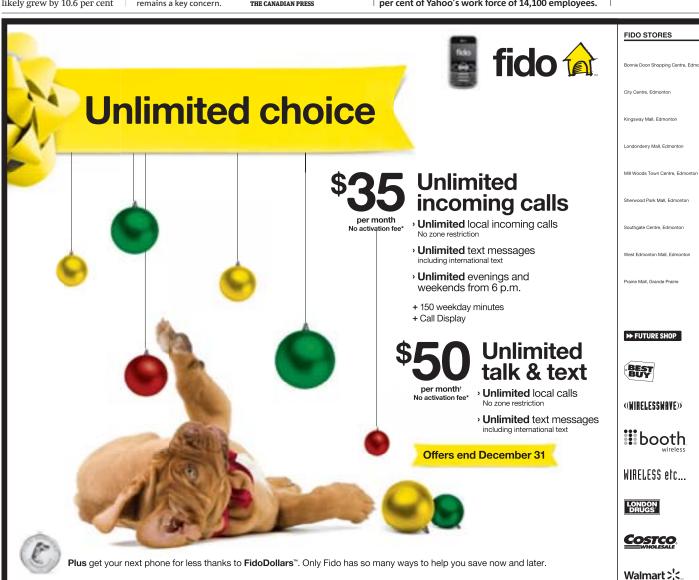


Tough times for Yahoo

Yahoo has announced a mass layoff which has been triggered by the Internet company's lacklustre growth. The planned cutbacks represent about five per cent of Yahoo's work force of 14,100 employees.







Walmart > '<_

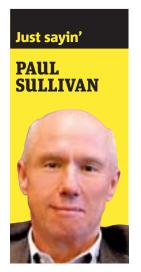
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TIRED OF THE ENTIRE GIVING PROCESS



At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I have a theory why charitable donations are down.

here's a new U.S. study showing that charitable donations fell 3.2 per cent in 2009, and wealthy households dried up the most: A whopping 34.9 per cent. You can hear those change purses snapping all the way across the bor-

My theory is we're exhausted by the charitable donation industry, and the more money we have, the more exhausted we

Wherever we go, whatever we do, there's a hand sticking out in front of our faces.

Seasonal charities: Every carol

concert requires you to bring a non-perishable food item.

Charitable panhandlers: Those young men and women with clipboards stationed on every street corner on Earth,

cheerfully ambushing you for Greenpeace, the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the World Wildlife Fund, etc.

Call centre charity: You want how much for what?

Rock star charity: Endorsed by Bono.

If you manage to avoid all those opportunities, you turn up at the checkout stand and the clerk asks if you want to add a few bucks for the World Yak Relief Project (WYRP). Hey, I'm in favour of yaks. Just not here. Just

"OK, I admit

I'm feeling

quilty and

sheepish

and vile ..."

So it's no surprise that in the above-mentioned report, the main reason for the decline is that charities are asking too often and for too much money.

One altruistic impulse can wed you to a charity for life. Actually, it's easier to get a real divorce than it is to part ways with the WYRP.

If you give to yak relief, it's not

long before all the other endan-gered or even just annoyed animals are calling, spamming, junk-mailing and stalking you for a donation. Tigers 2.0 lurk in the shadows of your in-basket or leap out of your mailbox, and they're just as eager to take a bite out of your hide.

OK, I admit I'm feeling guilty and sheepish and vile, but charities need to understand the accumulated impact of their frenetic campaigning is donor fatigue. If the frequency goes up, the amount goes down, according to Einstein.

We can't go back to the beginning and start all over again, but this year, I'm thinking of suspending all other donations, finding one little kid who seems particularly needy, and handing him (or her) a pile of cash.

And if it all gets spent on bubble gum and comic books, at least the kid will be happy while it lasts. Can't say the same thing about the yaks.



Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

WE'RE STRANDED AND UNPREPARED FOR THE HARSH



Worth mentioning

Bethlehem has seen a record number of tourists this year and its thousands of hotel rooms are fully booked for Christmas week, thanks to steadily declining violence in the West Bank over the past few years.

It's a welcome bit of good news in a period that is otherwise gloomy, with a U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian peace effort appearing to have run aground.

So far this year, 1.4 million tourists have visited the traditional birthplace of Jesus and 90,000 are expected during the Christmas season, a significant increase over last year, according to Israeli government figures.





The town's 2,750 hotel rooms are booked solid for Christmas week and four more hotels are under construction. The expected turnout for Christmas week is up strongly from about 70,000 last year. The Bethlehem they

find may be different from what many expect: For one thing, Christians have lost their majority: More than two-thirds of the 50,000 Palestinian residents are Muslim.

Still, the town does its best to take advantage of its place in Christian history, going so far as to link the Christmas nativity story to the fact that it houses the West Bank's best maternity facility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's your favourite **Christmas carol? Email** edmontonletters @metronews.ca Twitter @metroedmonton

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Metro Minute with fire safety contest

During the holidays, Edmonton Fire Rescue sees an increase in residential fires and is holding a contest ti-tled 12 Tips Of Christmas Fire Safety. One safety tip will be revealed each day. They can be found on Twitter, Facebook, SHAW TV, and 630 CHED and iNews880 radio stations. When you see or hear a tip, send an email to firecontest@edmonton.ca the tip, your phone num-ber and how you heard about it. If you are selected in a draw you could win a package including two fire extinguishers, three smoke alarms, one carbon monoxide detector, activity books and fire helmets for children, and a tour of a fire

HEATHER MCINTYRE





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Scene in brief



The Social Network has racked up another slew of pre-Oscar awards, this time from the Toronto Film Critics Association, which has crowned it best picture of the year

The drama about the creation of Facebook scored five prizes from the critics group, including best director for David Fincher, best actor for Jesse Eisenberg, above, best supporting actor for Armie Hammer, and best screenplay for Aaron Sorkin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



• The King's Speech leads Golden Globe contenders with seven nominations, including best drama and three acting honours • Glee leads TV contenders with five nominations • Ceremony will air live Jan. 16 on NBC • Here's a look at the nominees





Who's up for the 2010 Golden Globes

BEST PICTURE. DRAMA

- Black Swan • The Fighter
- Inception
- The King's Speech
- The Social Network

BEST PICTURE, MUSICAL/COMEDY

- · Alice in Wonderland
- Burlesque
- The Kids Are All Right
- Red
- The Tourist

BEST TV SERIES, MUSICAL/COMEDY

- 30 Rock
- The Big Bang Theory
- The Big C • Glee
- Modern Family
- Nurse Jackie

BEST TV SERIES, DRAMA

- Boardwalk Empire
- Dexter • The Good Wife
- Mad Men

• The Walking Dead

BEST ACTOR. TV MUSICAL/COMEDY

- Alec Baldwin, 30 Rock
- Steve Carell, The Office
- Thomas Jane, Hung
- Matthew Morrison, Glee Jim Parsons, The Big
- Bang Theory

BEST ACTRESS, TV MUSICAL/COMEDY

- Toni Collette,

- Tina Fey, 30 Rock
- Laura Linney, The Big C

- The United States of Tara
- · Edie Falco, Nurse Jackie
- Lea Michele, Glee

BEST ACTOR, TV DRAMA

- · Steve Buscemi. Boardwalk Empire
- · Bryan Cranston, Breaking Bad
- Michael C. Hall, Dexter
- Jon Hamm, Mad Men

BEST ACTRESS,

TV DRAMA

• Julianna Margulies,

The Good Wife

Mad Men

The Closer

Elisabeth Moss.

• Piper Perabo,

Covert Affairs

· Katey Sagal,

Sons of Anarchy

Kyra Sedgwick,

• Hugh Laurie, House

BEST ACTOR, DRAMA

- Jesse Eisenberg, The Social Network
- Colin Firth,
- The King's Speech
- James Franco, 127 Hours
- Ryan Gosling, Blue Valentine
- Mark Wahlberg.
- The Fighter

BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA

- Halle Berry,
 Frankie and Alice

- Winter's Bone
- · Natalie Portman.
- Blue Valentine

BEST ACTOR MUSICAL/COMEDY

- Johnny Depp, Alice in Wonderland
- Johnny Depp,
- The Tourist
- · Paul Giamatti, Barney's Version
- Jake Gyllenhaal, Love and Other Drugs
- Kevin Spacey,
- Casino Jack

- Nicole Kidman,
- Rabbit Hole
- Jennifer Lawrence,
- Black Swan
- Michelle Williams,

BEST ACTRESS, MUSICAL/COMEDY

- Annette Bening,
- The Kids Are All Right Julianne Moore.
- The Kids Are All Right
- Anne Hathaway,
- Love and Other Drugs · Angelina Jolie.
- The Tourist • Emma Stone, Easy A



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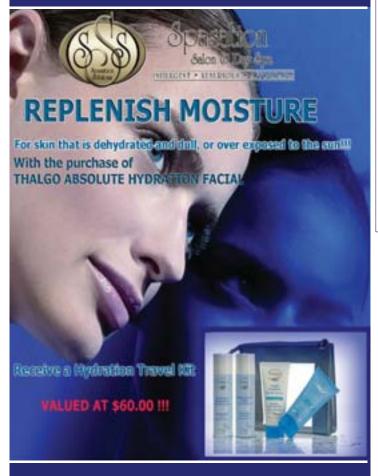


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Scary Christmas to all, and to all a good fright

▶ Holiday movies aren't all about family gatherings, Santa Claus, or puppet snowmen Five of our favourite horror flicks for a creepy Christmas



With the yuletide near it's time for families to start gathering around the comforting glow of a television to watch films that revel in the mirth of the holiday season.

However, if you can't bear the thought of seeing the Grinch's heart grow three sizes for the 800th time, there is another option. Why not fill your family's heart with fear this year with a selection of horror films that add blood and guts to the Christmas season?

The following titles are guaranteed to make grandma spit up her eggnog on the big day.

Black Christmas (1974)

Canadian director Bob Clark is best known for his B.B. gun classic A Christmas Story, but his first attempt to bring the holidays to the big screen was this pioneering slasher classic about a group of sorority girls bumped off over the Christmas break.

Swell with national pride as you watch SCTV's Andrea Martin get impaled by an icicle.

Gremlins (1984)

Who would have thought a cute little Mogwai named Gizmo would go down as the worst Christmas gift in history by paralyzing an impossibly perfect small town with pintsized monsters.

Perfect for parents trying to dissuade their kids from asking for a new pet for Christmas.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984)

There are many movies

about killer Santas, but the most famous example is this controversial slasher about a deranged man dressed as Santa murdering promiscuous teens.

Parents picketed this film's release in the '80s, but now you can buy it from any video store and share the trashy terror with your entire family.

Jack Frost (1997)

A possessed snowman kills people. 'Nuff said.

Sheitan (2006)

A beautifully deranged French horror flick about an incestuous hillbilly family who kidnap some rowdy young folks to perform a Satanic ritual on Christmas Eve.

A heartwarming tale of family torment for you and yours. • PHIL BROWN







It's never over until the fat lady.

There was no singing Dut thousands did flock to watch Oprah film shows for her final series outside Sydney Opera House Shows will begin airing in Jan.

For a few hours, Sydney swapped opera for a little

Thousands of shrieking, iubilant fans flocked to the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday to watch TV talk show queen Oprah Winfrey tape two star-studded shows for her final series of shows.

There were celebrities, giveaways and screams-a-plenty as 6,000 Oprah devotees jammed the steps of the landmark arts centre in Australia's biggest city for the filming.

The production marked the finale of her weeklong trip, accompanied by 302 audience members who took part in Oprah's Ultimate Australian Adven-

Winfrey's staffers whipped the already fren-zied crowd into a teardrenched state of hysteria before the host ascended the stage to the sounds of Men At Work's Down Under, Australia's unofficial

"HELLOOOO AUSTRALI-

AAAAA!" she bellowed as audience's reached a deafening pitch. "Now I understand why you call Australia 'Oz,' cause we truly are at the end of the yellow brick road!"

Winfrey launched her 25th and final season of The Oprah Winfrey Show in September by surprising her audience with her ultimate giveaway: an eight-day trip to the land down – Australia.

For the past week, the lucky chosen have been travelling the continent – snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, surfing at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach and exploring the rugged Out-

Winfrey, famed for her giveaways, had plenty up her sleeve, including a \$250,000 check for a cancer-stricken Australian man and his family, who have been struggling to pay their bills.

The shows begin airing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Off to Oz

When you can watch:

- On television Four shows from Winfrey's Aussie adventure will screen in January and are expected to be watched by millions of people in 145 countries.
- First auest Her first auest was Australian actor Russell Crowe
- Another guest During the taping of the second episode, actor Hugh Jackman hurt his eye while rappelling from the top of the Opera House onto the
- Locals upset The state and federal governments have spent around \$5 million on the trip, a price that has drawn criticism from some Australians. But officials and Winfrey herself insist the shows will bring many millions more in tourism publicity.



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Celebrity tweets



50 Cent [@50cent] Why people keep saying I got jungle fever. I ain't never even kissed a white women. Lol



Russell Brand [Arusty rockets] Today I am 8





Kathy Griffín [@kathy griffin] Today I am

on my way to Palm Springs to do 2 shows tomorrow. Hmm I wonder if there are any gay people there?

Pitt's kids rule the set

Keith Middlebrook, who co-stars with Brad Pitt in the upcoming Moneyball, says it was clear who was in charge of the set on their movie: Pitt's six kids. who often came to the set to visit their dad.

"There were toys and there were kids everywhere," Middlebrook tells Us Weekly. "We didn't really hang out because he had the kids.' METRO

Scarlett, Ryan split: Reports

Revnolds recently became the first Canadian to snag People magazine's 'sexiest man alive' title Johansson was named GO's 2010 'babe of the year'

Reports say that Canadian leading man Ryan Reynolds and his bombshell wife, Scarlett Johansson, have separated.

The Hollywood power couple married in September 2008 in a private ceremony at a remote British Columbia resort.

The gossip website TMZ features a short entry stating the duo are living apart and that "it's amica-

Meanwhile, a source close to the couple tells Us Weekly that Johansson initiated the split about two weeks ago and that the couple have decided to end their marriage.

The 34-year-old Vancouver-born hunk is poised to star in one of the most buzzed about films of 2011, The Green Lantern. THE CANADIAN PRESS





High School Musical costars Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens have called it quits after four years together, according to Gossip

The split was "amicable" and came about once

pair acknowledged their relationship "wasn't going to go further.'

When asked by Details earlier this year about being in a relationship, Efron said, "Believe me, I wrack my brain thinking, 'Why

am I not out there playing the field?' One of my buddies was like, 'You have no idea what's going on right now. You're peaking on Ecstasy and you're watching TV.' But it's not in my heart " a wetro

Miley's antics have **Dr. Drew concerned**

After a video showing Miley Cyrus smoking a bong hit the Internet, Dr. Drew Pinsky is worried about the Disney star, he tells Access Hollywood.

"We know that she's going to be acting out now because her family's in trouble, so it's not unusual to see depression manifesting as various kinds of acting out behaviours," Pinsky says.

"If I had a child that was doing that or if I was advising a parent, I would say get professional help immediately."



Cage's rage caught on tape in Romania

Nicolas Cage flew off the handle while in Romania to film his latest Ghost Rider film, and his entire 5 a.m. tirade was caught on tape, according to the Daily Mail.

While most of what Cage screams at an unidentified man is unintelligible on the video, he's heard yelling, "You want to kick me in the head? Go for it," before storming off, only to return moments later and continue velling.

Cage was eventually escorted away by bodyguards.

■ METRO

Take his advice at your own risk, Billy

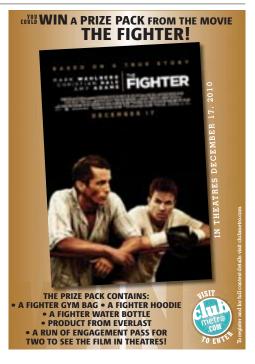
Michael Lohan thinks he can offer some advice to Billy Ray Cyrus, who is currently dealing with a nasty divorce battle and a daughter, Miley Cyrus, who keeps popping up in the tabloids. "Divorce does mess up kids," Lohan tells Popeater.

But divorce can work if both parents try to get along and don't use their children as pawns. Ask any professional about that, especially Dina [Lohan]! She knows all about using kids as pawns and dragging them into her dirt

■ METRO







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Christmastime in the United States

• Heading south for the holidays? If so, there are plenty of great places to visit to get you in the holiday spirit, from lighting festivals to Cinderella's Castle





The home in Hope where Bill Clinton spent the first four years of his life will officially be a national historic site as of

Organizers worked for years to earn the status for the Clinton First Home Museum on Hervey Street. More than 80,000 visitors from 159 countries have toured the twostorey, wood-frame home since it opened as a museum in 1997

The museum won approval last year to become part of the National Park

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Walt Disney World Orlando, Florida

At Walt Disney World in Orlando, it's Christmas through Jan. 3. Cinderella's Castle is lit up with 200,000 white lights and Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, a ticketed event certain evenings through Dec. 19, features twice-nightly Christmas parades plus live shows, carollers and more.

Other holiday happen-ings include a "Holidays Around the World" showcase at Epcot through Dec. 30, where storytellers share their heritage. Epcot also hosts a daily gospel performance through Dec. 26, and the Candlelight Processional featuring a choir, orchestra and a celebrity narrator retelling the Christmas story, through Dec. 30.



Mission Inn Hotel & Spa Riverside, California

The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, at 3649 Mission Inn Ave., is hosting its annual festival of lights through

Visitors will find a dazzling 3.5 million lights, a tree, carollers, and animatronic elves. angels and other characters in 17th-century costumes. The display is free and open to the public: the hotel also has holiday overnight packages starting at \$199.

The festival spills out into the city of Riverside with lights and decorations all over town as well as an outdoor skating rink in the main street pedestrian mall near the historic hotel

For more details visit missioninn.com



Universal Studios Hollywood, California

At Universal Studios, cast members from Glee and other celebrities will read Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas and take part in nightly lightings of a Grinchmas tree, beginning Dec. 11 and 12 and continuing daily Dec. 18 through Jan. 2.

The celebration includes a field of snow where families can build snowmen, as well as visits to the set where the Grinch movie was filmed aboard Universal's Studio Tour, and photo ops with the Grinch and his dog, Max. Tickets, packages and hotel deals at universalstudioshollywood.com or universalorlando.com.



Biltmore House Asheville, North Carolina

In North Carolina, the historic Biltmore House is celebrating Christmas through Jan. 2 with 150,000 lights, carollers, holiday cooking and decorating demonstrations, wine-tastings and a lit-up 17-metre Norway spruce on the front lawn.

Biltmore's original owner, George Vanderbilt, first opened the home to friends and family on Christmas Eve 1895 for what became an annual Christmas Party. Biltmore recalls the era with Candlelight Christmas Evenings featuring performances by ballroom dancers in vintage costumes and choirs. Details at biltmore.com.



Galt House Hotel Louisville, Kentucky

A brand-new attraction called KaLightoscope opened this season in Louisville, Ky., at the Galt House Hotel on 140 N.

The walk-through pavilion of lighted holiday sculptures is divided into 12 holidaythemed sections including "Toyland," the "Christmas Tree Maze." "The Lighted Forest," and "The Nativity" among others.

The attraction is open through Jan. 3: tickets are from \$14.95 to \$17.95. Details at KaLight oscope.com. Other holiday offerings at the hotel include a Christmas dinner show and events with Santa in a life-size gingerbread village.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From Manhattan to Salt Lake City, X-mas is everywhere

If the above American destinations Christmas don't appeal to you there are plenty of other great options to consider. Le Parker Meridien hotel

at 119 W. 56th St., in Manhattan also hosts a gingerbread house display, with creations by local pastry chefs and bakeries. The theme of the gingerbread creations this year is "Movies Made in New York," with King Kong and West Side Story among the films represented.

In Salt Lake City, Utah,

Temple Square is decorated with hundreds of thousands of lights and a lifesize nativity scene. Less than 60 kilometres away in Ogden, you'll be transported to Santa's North Pole village with lights, cottages and Santa's castle

Another town with holiday lights is McAdenville, N.C., where a half-million lights are strung on nearly 400 fir trees. The display started with a few lights in the 1950s but has evolved into a major attraction with support from a local manufacturer, Pharr Yarns. Bethlehem, Pa., hosts a

popular holiday market Christkindlmarkt called which offers handmade works, live music, ice carving glassblowing and demonstrations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Las Vegas gets a new hot spot

Ou.S. recession has hurt sin city, but new hotel Cosmopolitan hopes things will be turning around

The last major Las Vegas resort approved before the Great Recession will have to lure thousands of gamblers from established neighbours to survive after it opens today.

The \$3.9-billion US Cos-

mopolitan of Las Vegas, built by a German investment bank after its original developer defaulted, may have the hippest-ever TV commercials: Over a garage-rock soundtrack a jazzy interlude,

guests with crafty smiles stray across a landscape of shiny dance floors, soothing guest rooms and tables laden with food and drink.

But the 2,995-room Cosmopolitan is entering a market that's struggling.

And analysts say that just to cover its debt, it will need to do better than even the top-performing Bellagio, its neighbour to the north with 3,933 rooms and the same amount of casino space as

Cosmopolitan.

"If you take a look at everything that's opened in recent years, these properties have all struggled out of the gate," said Bill Lerner, an analyst with Union Gaming Group. "I'm not sure why this will be different."

Tourism to Las Vegas has increased from the woeful days of 2008 and 2009. And Lerner says the Cosmopolitan will get significant help from being owned by Deutsche Bank, which gave the project far lower interest rates and better terms than usual for commercial loans.

The Cosmopolitan's insides are designed to make people gawk. Video-screen columns cycling moving art greet visitors in the lob-Across the resort, guests can sip cocktails inside a three-storey chande-

lier. And its 13 restaurants (including an unmarked pizza joint) will offer world-class cuisine to please any New York food-ie. But the Cosmopolitan's biggest trump on the competition might be its rooms, most of which offer spacious terraces with incomparable views of Las Vegas. Most were planned as condominiums - big and with kitchenettes.

The resort has enough gambling space to fill almost two football fields, with some spots offering slot-side bottle service. It'll have just a handful of baccarat tables to start, even though the generally highstakes game has held its popularity through the recession; Unwin said the Cosmopolitan's gambling business will adapt to its customers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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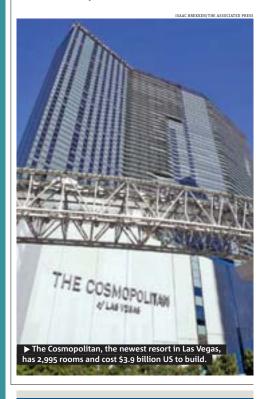
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Sometimes, low and slow is the best way to deal with a dinner short on time.

Even if dinner takes several hours to cook, but you don't need to do anything to the food during that time, it might as well be a 20-minute meal.

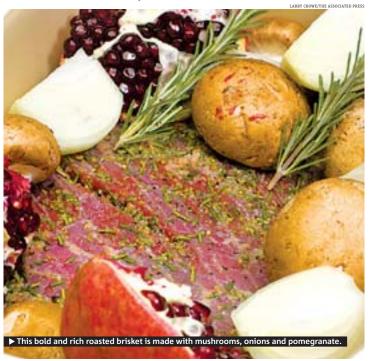
That was the inspiration for this bold, rich roasted brisket with red wine jus.

You start by bashing together fresh rosemary, garlic, salt and black peppercorns. The blend is rubbed over a brisket.

The meat is surrounded by mushroom caps, a quartered onion and a quartered pomegranate. Pop it in the oven and walk away.

When the brisket is done, you set it onto a plate to rest, spoon the mushrooms around it, then strain the liquid in the pot. And that's about

it. The pomegranate breaks down during cooking, lending a tart-sweet flavour that complements the salty flavour of the meat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pomegranate-Rosemary Brisket with Red Wine Jus

Preparation:

- Heat oven to 150 C (300 F). Drizzle oil over bottom of a Dutch oven.
- Using a mortar and peselte, spice grinder or small food prosessor, grind together salt, peppercorns, rosemary and garlic until they form a coarse paste.
- Rub rosemary-garlic blend over bisket, then place meat in Dutch oven. Scatter mushrooms, onion and pomegrnate around meat, then pour wine down side. Cover pot and roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until meat is fork ten-
- Transfer brisket from pot to a serving platter. Use a slotted spoon to transfer mushrooms to platter. Cover with foil and set

Pour liquid in pot through a mesh strainer into a bowl. Discard solids. Return strained liquid to pot and set over medium-high. Simmer until reduced and thickened, about 10 minutes. Serve alongside meat and mushrooms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) kosher salt 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) whole pep-
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary, leaves only
- 3 cloves garlic 1 kg (2 1/4 lbs) brisket,
- trimmed of fat 250 g (8 oz) baby portobel-
- loe mushrooms • 1 medium yellow onion,
- 1 pomegranate, quartered
- 250 ml (1 cup) red wine

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FIGHTING FOR FAMILY TIME



t the end of the day someone has to pick up the kids plain and simple. But what happens if your employer changes a

your employer changes a term or condition of your employment that prevents you from doing so? Is it discrimination?

Human rights legislation suggests it might be. In almost every province, employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of "family status", which is generally defined as being in a parent and child relationship.

However, this is a devel-

However, this is a developing area of law, and balancing an employer's right to govern the workplace with an employee's parental obligations is an ongoing power struggle.

Employers expect employees to show up and perform the duties of their position. Further, employers can set hours of work and schedule shifts.

Family status issues arise when the employer changes a condition of employment causing interference with an employee's parental obligations.

In these cases, an employee may require accommodation. That said, not all workplace changes will result in discrimination and the need for accommodation. The "test" is a change which causes interference with a parental obligation outside the scope of ordinary child care requirements.

Examples include an employee who required

specific post-natal scheduling changes and an employee whose child had a medical condition which necessitated special after-school care.

Conversely, discrimination has not be found where an employee was unable to relocate to a new job site due to a custody arrangement, where there were other reasonable child care alternatives available, or where the employer's change prevented an employee from attending his or her's child's extra-curricular activities.

If an employee requests accommodation based on family status, employers should ask what special circumstances exist, provide no more than the minimum amount of time off, and remind the employee that this time off is unpaid.

An employee who requests accommodation must be mindful that that accommodation will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. And these extraordinary circumstances do not include attending your child's hockey games.

An Anna Wintour in the making?

 Four-year-old Daniela Smith likes Cinderella, soccer and Prada
 The schoolgirl picks and reviews the spring/summer 2011 collections



Yellow jumpsuits, crazy orange wigs, tops with images of cheeky monkeys, and some oversized flowers... You'd be forgiven for thinking that some of the looks from spring/summer '11 could have sprung from a kids' cartoon. It's no wonder that our resident four-year-old critic had strong opinions about them all.





Ralph Lauren

"This is a good outfit to wear to feed the horsies. I think she has ponies and horsies and horsies and horsies and horsies and reablits. Her trousers look nice. And her jacket does too. I think she carries a lot of things inside her bag like a telephone, hand cream, pen, paper and a pistol. She has a pistol and a magic wand because she's got special powers."

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DISTRIBUTION AUDITOR

Metro Edmonton is seeking a full-time Distribution Auditor to be a part of our local team.

Reporting initially to the Publisher (and then to the Distribution Manager), this candidate will possess an understanding of distribution concepts and procedures and should be able to analyze operations for efficiency and accuracy.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Review all distribution locations within the city (boxes and dealers) for accuracy and quality
- Review the procedures and efficacy of our distribution contractors and hand-promoters, ensuring they are adhering to Metro's policies.
- Seek and implement new distribution opportunities and locations within the general area

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Knowledge of distribution strategies for news/print media preferred
- Strong reporting skills using Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel
- Strong computer and email skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work at irregular hours (some evening work required)
- Assertive self-starter with own vehicle
- An adequate team player with an adaptable attitude

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than December 17, 2010. PLEASE QUOTE: "DISTRIBUTION AUDITOR - EDMONTON" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.



CITY PRINT DISTRIBUTION INC.

DISTRIBUTORS OF METRO EDMONTON

DISTRIBUTION DRIVERS

Applications are now being accepted for distribution drivers. If you are experienced, dependable, with references and have a reliable larger sized vehicle, the following position may be for you:

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FIRST COME · FIRST SERVED · DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY!



To group or to stream **students**

Current evidence shows that grouping students based on their academic abilities may be detrimental

"Grouping" by ability, or "tracking" or "streaming" means that students are placed into groups defined by their ability levels.

Students may be grouped by ability either for a subject (for example for mathematics or reading) or for all or almost all their instruction.

Students' assignment to an ability group may be temporary, changing during the year, or relatively permanent.

Advocates of grouping by ability claim that it can raise achievement standards, since teachers can target their instruction and use resources more effectively.

However, research has shown that grouping by ability can have adverse effects on students' attitudes toward schooling and their self-esteem.

Studies on ability grouping show inequitable outcomes and social consequences.

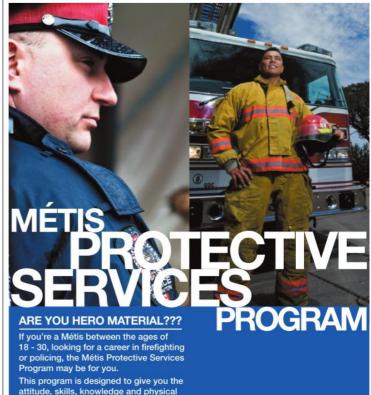
- It is very difficult to distinguish "ability" from "prior achievement."
- Use of grouping by ability is associated with worse overall student performance.
- Students placed in higher ability groups may perform better but students placed in lower ability groups typically perform worse than in mixed ability groups.
- There is a tendency for lower teacher expectation and lower quality of instruction in lower ability groups.
- For students assigned to low-ability groups,

there are negative effects on their self-esteem, motivation and attitudes toward schooling.

Research suggests that students in non-grouped settings, especially for those with lower achievement, have more healthy and positive attitudes toward school than students tend to have in grouped settings.

Researchers advocate using mixed grouping as well as reducing ability grouping in schools, but more important is to focus much attention on improving instruction and curriculum for students of all achievement levels.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN EDUCA-TION ASSOCIATION (CEA) AND THE ON-TARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE/UT)





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If you are an accounting student or accounting professional whose first language is not English, these courses have been specifically designed for you. Learn the basics of Canadian business language (spoken and written) and culture to help navigate through today's complex business world. Courses are offered in both Edmonton and Calgary on Tuesday evenings.

Classes begin January 18

To find out more, or to register, go to www.albertaCAs.ca.



Program runs Jan 10th - Mar 31st, 2011

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Employment
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Application Deadline December 17th 2010

To apply or for more information, contact the

Métis Employment Services office near you: 1-888-48-MÉTIS (1-888-486-3847)

The winning formula

Do you slip back into old habits post-New Year's? ◆ Forge ahead with these simple rules for setting a goal



According to Mark Murphy, author of Hard Goals: The Secrets to Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be, "85 per cent of New Year's resolutions are abandoned within 90 days of New Year's."

For 2011, Murphy

shows you how to stick with your goals by using some basic rules. He breaks them down into four subgroups: heartfelt, animated, required and difficult. "A goal has to be heartfelt — you have to have some emotional connection to it. It has to be animated, in that we have to visualize it in our minds. Required means we need to feel some kind of urgency for it. And it has to be difficult, as we perform best when our brains are most awake," he explains.

These four categories add up to the most important goal, what Murphy describes as a "hard goal." These goals are highly achievable and keep a goal-setter motivated.

"The interesting thing is that too often people view goal-setting as a one-shot endeavor," Murphy says. "You set the goal, you forget about it and you expect it to take care of itself. How we feel when we initially start a goal; that mo-

tivation can wane."

Murphy also says that setting goals effectively can create happiness, or at least a more positive point of view. "Most people who are great achievers, once they hit a goal, they're always looking for a new goal," he says.

"We found that people who tend to be the happiest are people who keep goals coming."

His advice: "Lay down the foundation by finding a goal that you want to do and find an emotional connection to that goal. You have to find some reason that you care about it."







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Starts Jan 25, 2011

COOKING NEW ORLEANS STYLE (HOS135)

The secrets for producing excellent Creole and Cajun dishes will be revealed for preparing and presenting the cuisine of Louisiana.

Fee: \$120

Starts Jan 29, 2011

CAKE DECORATING PRINCIPLES (BAK400)

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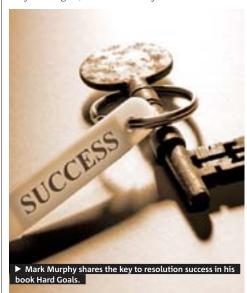
Fee: \$230

Starts Feb 28, 2011

Find out more information online at www.nait.ca/ConEd or call 780.471.6248

EDUCATION FOR THE REAL WORLD





Happy hunting

○ Bounce back into the workforce

Most modern workers know that if they can be replaced for cheaper, they will be. But Laurence Shatkin, author of 2011 Career Plan: The Best Moves Now for a Solid Future, can help you to bounce back.

Get involved in networking organizations.

Look for networking groups that have a broader membership than those in career transition: ExecuNet, which has chapters across the country, is a group that brings executives, recruiters and business leaders together for discussion in-person and online. Leadership organizations can also be great networking groups.

Use your alumni network.

The term "alumni" can apply to different groups: your college, high school, sorority/fraternity or people you worked with at a former employer. Mobilize them all.

Alumni associations can provide a wealth of contacts and resources for job hunters. Have you caught up with a college roommate lately?

Use LinkedIn or Facebook to find out how they are and where they're working.

You could find a potential advocate for a target employer. If not, you've at least reconnected with an old friend.

METRO

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Strong start not enough for Oilers

Team had 12 shots in the first. but Leafs come away with the win



Kris Versteeg had a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs kicked off their Western Canada road trip with a 4-1 victory over the Edmonton Oilers last

Dion Phaneuf, Mikhail Grabovski and Phil Kessel also scored for the Leafs, (12-14-4) who have won two in a row and four of their last six and moved into a three-way tie for 10th in the Eastern Conference with Buffalo and Carolina.

Jordan Eberle scored in response for the Oilers (11-14-5) who have lost two in a row and three of four to remain in last place in the West.

The Oilers came out flying but it was the Maple Leafs who struck first six minutes in, as Phaneuf beat Oilers starter Nikolai Khabibulin with a point blast for his first goal of the

season in his first game in his hometown of Edmonton as a Maple Leaf since being traded to Toronto by the Calgary Flames.

Edmonton tied the game up six minutes later as Ryan Whitney did a good job keeping a puck in at the point and sent it to Gagner, who slid a pass under Leafs defenceman Francois Beauchemin to Eberle to give the rookie forward his seventh goal of the sea-

The shots were 12-12 after the opening frame, sig-nificant for the Oilers in that it equalled their shoton-net total from the entire game in Sunday's 2-1 loss to Vancouver.

Phaneuf didn't make himself any more fans in his hometown in the third as he wrapped an arm around Oiler youngster Taylor Hall long after a whistle, prompting Dustin Penner to jump him and earning the Toronto capan unsportmanlike

Both teams are back in action tomorrow as the Leafs travel to Calgary for Phaneuf's first game since being traded to Toronto from the Flames, while the Oilers will close out a sixgame homestand against Columbus

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Opinion RYAN KENNEDY THE HOCKEY NEWS



OVEMENT

It took until mid-December, but once again the Oilers are looking ahead until next year. With veteran forwards Shawn Horcoff and Ales Hemsky on the shelf, it's now officially all about the kids this season.

rue, the introduction of Taylor Hall, Jordan Eberle and Magnus Paajarvi to the Edmonton lineup for 2010-11 made it pretty clear right off the bat that youth was the order of the day, but now a second wave of hopefuls are making their presence felt and fortunately for them, expectations can't get much lower. Take last weekend's 2-1 loss to Vancouver, widely panned due to the pop-gun nature of the Oilers' 12-shot attack (or 11, according to some reports). Newcomers Linus Omark and Ryan O'Marra played on a line with Ryan Jones and the two rookies looked to have some decent speed and gumption in the early going. It may not have gone anywhere, but these are players still finding their way.

Omark, of course, is the hot new Eu-ropean, splitting the hockey world with his game-winning shootout goal against Tampa in his first NHL game. Was his spin-o-rama move a hot-dog play that disrespected Lightning goalie Dan Ellis? My thought on the matter is simple: Omark did his job, Ellis didn't. Omark's only motivation in the shootout is to score. How he accomplishes that is up to him.

I like Omark. He was upset to be cut by the Oilers coming out of training camp and said so publicly. Then, much like he did in the shootout, he proved his worth by lighting up the American League as a member of the Oklahoma City Barons. In one game, the sublime Swede rang up five goals plus a shootout tally in a win over the Toronto

Confidence is not a problem with

O'Marra, on the other hand, is battling for his career and appears to be winning that struggle. A first-round draft pick of the Islanders in 2005, the six-foot-two centre has fallen as low as the ECHL in his career and played limited minutes for the Oilers in three games last season. But he's back and is getting a chance to prove himself. On a good team, he couldn't do that. But the Oilers have all the time in the world to give second chances this year and at least there's a silver lining.



Quoted



"It looks like there's a chance that we're going to be able to get him back at some point. Hopefully, this week.

VIKINGS INTERIM COACH LESLIE FRAZIER, ON WHETHER BRETT FAVRE WILL PLAY AGAIN.

"Brett, he's an unusual healer. He comes back a lot sooner than others from most injuries. We'll just have to wait and see." FRAZIER



EASTERN CONFERENCE												
	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	32	20	7	2	3	108	78	45	11-5-0-2	9-2-2-1	6-1-0-3	W3
d-Washington	32	18	11	1	2	98	92	39	12-4-0-2	6-7-1-0	4-5-0-1	L6
d-Montreal	30	18	10	2	0	78	61	38	11-4-2-0	7-6-0-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	32	21	9	2	0	103	74	44	10-5-1-0	11-4-1-0	9-1-0-0	L1
Atlanta	31	17	11	1	2	99	91	37	9-6-0-1	8-5-1-1	8-2-0-0	W2
NY Rangers	32	18	13	1	0	96	83	37	7-8-1-0	11-5-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Boston	28	16	8	1	3	81	56	36	7-5-1-2	9-3-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Tampa Bay	30	16	10	2	2	94	106	36	7-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Ottawa	32	13	16	2	1	71	96	29	8-8-1-1	5-8-1-0	3-5-1-1	L1
Carolina	28	12	12	0	4	78	87	28	6-5-0-1	6-7-0-3	3-3-0-4	W1
Buffalo	30	12	14	4	0	78	84	28	6-9-1-0	6-5-3-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	12	14	2	2	69	87	28	8-6-2-1	4-8-0-1	4-5-1-0	W2
Florida	28	13	15	0	0	71	72	26	6-5-0-0	7-10-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	29	8	19	1	1	53	88	18	4-7-1-1	4-12-0-0	3-7-0-0	L5
NY Islanders	28	5	18	3	2	59	98	15	3-7-1-1	2-11-2-1	1-7-2-0	L6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	VV	L	OIL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	29	19	7	2	1	96	78	41	11-4-1-1	8-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	L1
d-Dallas	30	18	10	0	2	86	82	38	11-3-0-1	7-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Vancouver	28	16	8	2	2	91	74	36	9-3-1-1	7-5-1-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Nashville	29	15	8	4	2	76	70	36	7-1-3-2	8-7-1-0	6-1-1-2	W3
Colorado	30	16	10	4	0	108	95	36	8-4-1-0	8-6-3-0	4-3-3-0	W3
Anaheim	33	16	13	2	2	87	98	36	11-6-0-1	5-7-2-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Los Angeles	28	17	10	1	0	78	65	35	11-2-1-0	6-8-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
San Jose	30	15	10	4	1	90	87	35	8-4-2-1	7-6-2-0	5-4-0-1	L1
Chicago	32	16	13	2	1	101	96	35	8-8-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	L2
Phoenix	28	14	8	4	2	81	77	34	6-4-2-2	8-4-2-0	6-3-0-1	W1
Columbus	29	16	11	1	1	76	79	34	8-7-0-1	8-4-1-0	3-5-1-1	L1
St. Louis	28	14	9	2	3	72	75	33	9-2-0-2	5-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Minnesota	29	13	12	1	3	71	86	30	7-6-0-2	6-6-1-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Calgary	31	13	15	1	2	84	19	29	8-6-0-0	5-9-1-2	5-4-0-1	W1
Edmonton	30	11	14	1	4	78	105	27	5-8-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	L2

 $d-\text{division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column. \\$

Last night's results Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 2 Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 2 Toronto 4 Edmonton 1 Monday's results Calgary 3 Columbus 2 (OT) Atlanta 4 Ottawa 3 (OT) Colorado 7 Chicago 5 Dallas 3 San Jose 2 (SO) Los Angeles 5 Detroit 0 Nashville 5 N.Y. Islanders 0

Phoenix at New Jersey, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m. St. Louis at Detroit, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m. Carolina at Florida, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m. Colorada at Kieson, 8:30 p.m. Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Columbus at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

(All times Eastern) Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m. LEAFS 4, OILERS 1

Tonight's games

First Period

1. Toronto, Phaneuf 1 (Kessel, Armstrong)
5:55 2. Edmonton, Eberle 7 (Gagner, Whitney)

Penalty — Armstrong Tor (roughing) 2:01.

Second Period

3. Toronto, Grabovski 9 (MacArthur, Lebda)

4. Toronto, Versteeg 10 (Schenn, Brent) 17:38 Toronto, Versteeg 10 (Schenn, Brent) 17:38
Penaltise – Brule Edm (elbowing) 2:42, Stortini Edm (fighting) 2:42, Stortini Edm (fighting) 12:19, MacIntyre Edm (roughing) 12:29, Edmonton bench (too many men; served by Brule) 14:40.
 Third Period
 Toronto, Kessel 12 (Versteeg, Bozak) 9:47 (pp.)

(pp) **Penalties** — Phaneuf Tor (unsportsmanlike conduct) 6:16, Paajarvi Edm (holding) 8:49, Orr Tor, MacIntyre Edm (misconduct) 11:35, Ver-steeg Tor (elbowing) 15:36, Toronto bench Steep for (elbowing) 15:30, foronto benc (too many men; served by Kessel) 19:30. **Shots** Toronto 12 13 9 Edmonton 12 3 9

Goal — Toronto: Giguere (W.8-6-2); Edmonton: Khabibulin (1,7-11-2). Power plays (goals-chances) — Toronto: 2-5; Edmonton: 0-4.

Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	Α	PT
Crosby, Pgh	26	27	53
Stamkos, TB	24	20	44
St. Louis, TB	11	26	37
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	20	36
Ovechkin, Wash	12	24	36

Datsyuk, Det Perry, Ana H.Sedin, Vcr 25 19 30 B.Richards, Dal 12 18 11 11 Semin, Wash Backstrom, Wash Byfuglien, Atl Getzlaf, Ana 10 17 13 11 11 15 14 13 10 9 Sharp, Chi P.Stastny, Col Hejduk, Col Hejduk, Col Duchene, Col M.Richards, Pha Giroux, Pha Iginla, Cal Heatley, SJ Kopitar, LA Ladd, Atl 30 30 29 29 29 29 29 29 28 28 28 28 27 27 27 27 27 26 26 26 25 25 25 25 Zetterhera Det Clowe, SJ Roy, Buf Neal, Dal 13 13 12 12 10 14 11 7 7 Toews, Chi Eriksson, Dal E.Staal, Car E.Staal, Car Selanne, Ana Dubinsky, NYR P.Kane, Chi J.Williams, LA Havlat, Minn J.Thornton, SJ Letang, Pgh Lucic, Bos Ryan, Ana Plekanec, Mtl Liles, Col Nash, Clb Vanek, Buf C.Stewart, Col M.Koivu, Minn Ribeiro, Dal Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
d-Boston	19	4	.826	_					
d-Miami	18	8	.692	21/2					
d-Chicago	15	8	.652	4					
New York	16	9	.640	4					
Orlando	16	9	.640	4					
Atlanta	16	10	.615	41/2					
Indiana	11	12	.478	8					
Milwaukee	10	13	.435	9					
Charlotte	9	15	.375	101/2					
Philadelphia	9	15	.375	101/2					
Toronto	9	16	.360	11					
Detroit	8	18	.308	121/2					
Cleveland	7	17	.292	121/2					
Washington	6	17	.261	13					
New Jersey	6	19	.240	14					
WESTERN CO	NFER	ENC	Œ						

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	20	3	.870	_
Dallas	19	5	.792	11/2
d-L.A. Lakers	18	7	.720	3
d-Utah	18	8	.692	31/2
Oklahoma City	17	8	.680	4
Denver	15	9	.625	51/2
New Orleans	14	10	.583	61/2
Portland	12	13	.480	9
Phoenix	11	12	.478	9
Memphis	11	14	.440	10
Houston	10	14	.417	101/2
Golden State	8	16	.333	121/2
Minnesota	6	18	.250	141/2
Sacramento	5	17	.227	141/2
L.A. Clippers	5	20	.200	16
d-division leader				

Last night's results

Last night's results Charlotte 97 Toronto 91 Philadelphia 82 New Jersey 77 L.A. Lakers 103 Washington 89 Detroit 103 Atlanta 80 Houston 118 Sacramento 105 Denver 111 Orlando 94 Minnesota at Golden State

Monday's results Miami 96, New Orleans 84 Chicago 92, Indiana 73 Memphis 86, Portland 73

Memphis 86, Portland 73 Milwaukee 103, Dallas 99 Utah 108, Golden State 95 Tonight's games (All times Eastern) LA. Lakers at Indiana, 7 p.m. Boston at New York, 7 p.m. LA. Clippers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m. Cleveland at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Charlotte at Memphis, 8 p.m. Sacramento at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Houston at Oklahoma City 8 n m Milwaukee at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m. Portland at Dallas, 9:30 p.m

BOBCATS 97, RAPTORS 91

TORONTO (91) Weems 4-13 0-0 9, Johnson 5-9 2-4 12, Bargnani 4-14 3-5 12, Bayless 6-14 3-4 17, DeRozan 7-14 0-3 14. Davis 3-5 0-0 6. Barbosa DeROZAII 7-14-05-14, Davis 5-9 0-0 G, Bariota 4-111-2 12, Kleiza 3-9 2-3 9, Wright 0-0 0-0 0, Dorsey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-89 11-21 91. CHARLOTTE (97) Wallace 5-7 6-10 16, Diaw 4-10 1-2 9, Mo-

hammed 8-11 2-5 18, Augustin 4-12 3-4 12, Jackson 3-8 1-27, Thomas 6-12 2-3 14, K.Brown 5-8 0-0 10, Livingston 2-3 2-26, McGuire 0-10-0 0, Henderson 0-10-0 0, Car roll 2-2 1-1 5, D.Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 39-75 18-29 97.

Toronto 29 24 19 19 91 Charlotte 20 27 25 25 97 3-Point Goals—Toronto 8-26 (Barbosa 3-7, Bayless 2-5, Weems 1-3, Kleiza 1-4, Bargnani 1-4, DeRozan 0-3), Charlotte 1-6 (Augustin 1-2, Jackson 0-2, Diaw 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson, Rebounds-Toronto 52 (Johnson 12), Charlotte 58 (Mohammed 8), Assists—Toronto 21 (Bayless 9), Charlotte 24 (Augustin 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 23, Charlotte 21. Techni-cals—Jackson. A—12,482 (19,077) at Char-

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MIR

DETROIT TIGERS—Released RHP Alfredo Figaro and sold his contract to Orix (Japanese Pacific League).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with

CINCINNATI REDS-Agreed to terms with OF

1B Lyle Overbay on a one-year contract. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with C Gerald Laird on a one-year contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with OF/1B Matt Stairs on a minor league

ST. PAUL SAINTS—Traded 1B Kris Sanchez to New Jersey (Can-Am) for cash. WICHITA WINGNUTS—Released INF Cesar

FRONTIER LEAGUE

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES—Signed LHP Justin

Wayde Kitchens to a contract extension.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Assigned F DeMarre Carroll to Dakota (NBADL).

LACROSSE

FOOTBALL

Wharton, DE Everette Brown and LB Jason Williams on injured reserve Signed DT Corvey Irvin and CB R.J. Stanford from the practice squad. Signed DT Tommie Duhart to the practice squad.

Burgess. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed WR Deon Butler on injured reserve. Signed G Paul Fanaika from Cleveland's practice squad. TAMPA RAY RUCCANFERS—Placed DT Gerald McCoy and LB Quincy Black on injured reserve. Signed DE George Johnson and LB Tyrone McKenzie from the practice squad. WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Released P Hunter Smith. Signed P Sam Paulescu

CFL

FDMONTON ESKIMOS — Approunced special teams coordinator and assistant head coach

AMERICAN LEAGUE

RHP Mariano Rivera on a two-year contract. OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms with DH/OF Hideki Matsui on a one-year contract. TAMPA BAY RAYS—Named Steve Watson pitching coach of Charlotte (FSL) and Neil Allen pitching coach of Durham (IL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Jay Bruce on a six-year contract.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with C Dioner Navarro on a one-year contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

CAN-AM LEAGUE

WORCESTER TORNADOES—Traded INF Gordon Gronkowski to Lake Erie (Frontier) for RHP II Pacella

OAKLAND COUNTY CRUISERS—Signed RHP

BASKETBALL

COLORADO MAMMOTH—Announced the re tirement of G Curtis Palidwor.

CAROLINA PANTHERS—Placed G Travelle MIAMI DOLPHINS—Placed OT Vernon Carev

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed Of Verifor Carey

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed CB Chris Cook
on injured reserve. Signed OT Thomas Welch
from the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed DE Derrick

Noel Thorne, receivers coach Jason Tucker and defensive backs coach Stacey Hairston will not return next season

HOCKEY

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed senior vice presi-ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed senior vice presi-chent of hockey operations David McNab and coach Randy Carlyle to a contract extension through the 2011-12 season. CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Bryan Rodney from Charlotte (AHL) on an emer-

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Placed LW Brian Rol-ston on waivers. Recalled C Tim Sestito from Albany (AHL). NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Returned D Dylan

Reese and R Rhett Rakhshani to Bridgeport (AHL). VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Assigned F Guillaume Desbiens to Manitoba (AHL).

SOCCER

DC UNITED—Signed D Ethan White.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

All Times Eastern Saturday's games NEW MEXICO BOWL

At Albuquerque, N.M. Texas-El Paso (6-6) vs. Brigham Young (6-6), 2

. Humanitarian Bowl

At Boise, Idaho Northern Illinois (10-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4),

NEW ORLEANS BOWL

NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Ohio (8-4) vs. Troy (7-5), 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 21
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Louisville (6-6) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-4), 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 22 MAACO BOWL

MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 23
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego, Calif.
San Diego, Calif.
San Diego State (3-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 24
HAWAII BOWL
At Manual BOWL

At Honolulu Hawaii (10-3) vs. Tulsa (9-3), 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 26 LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL

At Detroit Toledo (8-4) vs. Florida International (6-6), 8:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENCE BOWL At Shreveport, La.
Georgia Tech (6-6) vs. Air Force (8-4), 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28

CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
At Orlando, Fla.
North Carolina State (8-4) vs. West Virginia

(9-3), 6:30 p.m. INSIGHT BOWL Missouri (10-2) vs. Iowa (7-5), 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29 MILITARY BOWL

At Landover, Md. East Carolina (6-6) vs. Maryland (8-4), 2:30

p.m. TEXAS BOWL Baylor (7-5) vs. Illinois (6-6), 6 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	-					
EAST						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	P
x-New England	11	2	0	.846	415	27
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.692	273	24
Miami	7	6	0	.538	225	24
Buffalo	3	10	0	.231	256	33
SOUTH						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	P
Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	295	33
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	31
Houston	5	8	0	.385	316	35
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	26
NORTH						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	P
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	290	19
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	294	22
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	235	25
Cincinnati	2	11	0	.154	262	34
WEST						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	P
Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	295	26
San Diego	7	6	0	.538	354	25
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	314	30
Denver	3	10	0	.231	269	37
NATIONAL	co	NF	FRE	NCE		

EAST						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	.692	329	250
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	374	308
Washington	5	8	0	.385	238	310
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	321	366
SOUTH						
	W	L	т	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	335	243
New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	330	240
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	260	267
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	164	338
NORTH						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615	306	189
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	230	274
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	285	309
WEST						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	261	329
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	245	268
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	243	280
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	243	351
x — clinched pla	ayoff	bert	h.			

WEEK 14

WYEEN 14
Monday's results
Baltimore 34 Houston 28 (OT)
At Detroit
N.Y. Giants 21 Minnesota 3
Sunday's results
Arizona 43 Denver 13
Atlanta 31 Carolina 10
Buffalo 13 Cleveland 6 Buffalo 13 Cleveland 6
Detroit 7 Green Bay 3
Jacksonville 38 Oakland 31
Miami 10 N.Y. Jets 6
New England 36 Chicago 7
New Orleans 31 St. Louis 13
Pittsburgh 23 Cincinnati 7
San Diego 31 Khansas City 0
San Francisco 40 Seattle 21
Tampa Bay 17 Washington 16
Philadelphia 30 Dallas 27
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota (ppd., snow and stadium problems)
MEEK IE

WEEK 15

Tomorrow's game (All times Eastern) San Francisco at San Diego, 8:20 p.m. Sunday's games Kansas City at St. Louis, 1 p.m. Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m. Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. New Orleans at Baltimore, 1 p.m. Atlanta at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. Denver at Oakland, 4:15 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m. Green Bay at New England, 8:20 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

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metronews.ca

• Could Lincoln's new MKZ Hybrid sedan be the most efficient luxury car in North America?



A premium hybrid that's worth the hybrid premium



Could the Lincoln MKZ be the poster child for delivering hybrid technology at a down-to-earth price?

Ford's premium Lincoln division touts the new MKZ Hybrid sedan as the most efficient luxury car in North America and brags up its hyper-extended fuel economy. And with a \$43,750 price tag, this MKZ also happens to be one of the better buys out there.

The hybrid version of the MKZ is new to the lineup for the 2011 model year, but its drive system was first installed in the Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan (upon which the MKZ is based) for the 2010 model year. At about 1,635 kilograms — about 225 kilograms — about

grams lighter than Lincoln's larger MKS sedan — the MKZ is an ideal platform to apply the hybrid magic wand.

Of course, the MKZ has to look the part of an upscale contender, and it really does. It might be based on the humble Ford Fusion, but Lincoln's designers have done a solid job sculpting a distinctive front end. A delicately creased hood and jewel-like wraparound headlights frame the brand's signature "waterfall" grille. The taillights and trunk lid have also been dressed up with the Lincoln touch.

The icing on the cake is a cool set of nine-spoke 17-inch alloy wheels that have been fitted with special low-rolling-resistance tires.

You might expect that

Lincoln would scrimp a bit on the Hybrid's interior content to maintain price parity with its V6 gas-powered stablemate.

Not at all, actually. This MKZ offers up standard genuine walnut or ash wood trim plus leather-covered seats that are power-adjustable (with memory settings) and heated and cooled in front.

There are also standard backup sensors as well as Ford's Microsoft-powered, voice-activated Sync system that controls a number of communication, entertainment and climate-control functions.

Other unique standard features include a capless fuel filler that makes topping up a one-handed affair, while a keyless entry pad is handy if you're heading to

the beach or out for a jog and don't want to bring a set of keys along.

Optional is a power sunroof, voice-activated navigation system, keyless remote start, rear-view camera, blind-spot warning alert and a premium THX-brand audio package.

The Hybrid powertrain consists of a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine assisted by a 40-horsepower electric motor. The net power output is 191 horses directed to the front wheels via a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

If the MKZ Hybrid catches on — and it's tough to see how it won't — you can expect other automakers to try and match this Lincoln's impressive fuel economy, features and price point.

MKZ Hybrid

What you should know about the 2011 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid:



- Type: Four-door, mid-size, front-wheel-drive, entryluxury sedan.
- ► Engine (hp): 2.5-litre DOHC 14, combined with an electric motor (191, net).
- Transmission: Continuously variable.
- Stats: L/100 km (city/hwy) 4.6/5.4.
- Base price: \$43,750 (Including destination).



By comparison

Lexus HS 250hBase price: \$41,850
Prius-based model
adds more power,
but is not nearly as
fuel-efficient.



Chevrolet Volt
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Electric motor combines with gas assistant to offer unlimited range.



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CHANGING TIMES: MAKING A CAR WITH SUNSHINE



here's more to a vehicle than metal. And chances are if it's not metal, it's something created from petroleum—like plastic trim and polyester fibre.

But times are a changing.

Consider this quote on Ford's website, attributed to Cynthia Flanigan, a technical expert with Ford Plastics Research: "Whenever petroleum-based materials exist — in plastic, rubber, foam, film or fabric — we are looking to minimize its proportion and replace it with a sustainable material."

A "sustainable material" would either be a plant-based material and/or a recycled material.

Ford has been using soy-

based foam for car seats for a few years now (starting on the 2007 Mustang). It recently expanded its soyfoam portfolio to the industry's first soy-foam headliner on the 2010 Escape.

And among Ford's recycled materials initiatives are seat fabrics made with varying degrees of post-industrial yarns, suede-like material created from plastic pop bottles (Taurus SHO and Lincoln MKZ), and sound deadening and carpet backing fashioned in part from old blue ieans (2012 Focus).

blue jeans (2012 Focus).

While recycling efforts are useful and necessary, the cooler science projects are happening with biobased materials. Tractor manufacturer John Deer is



already using corn-based polymers for certain body panels, and Canada's own Motive Industries says it will build its new electric car with body panels made of Alberta-grown hemp.

There are also R&D initiatives to make bio-based plastics to replace some metal parts in the engine department. To stand up to the heat, these parts would have to be made up of a bio-plastic hybrid — something

plant (like castor beans) and something nylon perhaps. But in addition to all

these "green" benefits, using plants to build cars can also be a fashion statement.

Consider the recently announced BamBoo, which Rinspeed, a Swiss auto design firm, will unveil at this spring's Geneva auto show. It's called BamBoo because many interior components are made from bamboo fibre.

Rinspeed's press release says the open-top electricpowered concept car "awakens the longing for sun and summer; for lightness and

be at the beach."
And it gets better: "It is a reminiscence of the 70s, of the south of France and St. Tropez. And one would expect to find Brigitte Bardot behind the wheel with playboy Gunther Sachs at her

side heading toward Tahiti

easiness; and the desire to

beach."

Rinspeed figures that retro and greeness go good together, like wine and cheese, claiming that its old-new design creations are about channeling "the yearning to get back to the roots, paired with the absolute desire to be in harmony with creation." May be a highfalutin way of expressing the sentiment, but probably not a totally offbase one for a lot of people.

High-stress tests

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

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It's never just enough to design a new automotive component.

It must then be tested, and if it's going to be tested properly, it has to be right to the limits of what it can take. All automakers do this, including Hyundai, which performs extreme high-stress tests for durability.

Hyundai offers a long warranty, "so we had to

have a way to ensure that our products will last that amount of time," says Donghee Han, senior research engineer for Hyundai's gasoline engine performance test team in Korea.

"We do this many times and at many stages of development to guarantee that these engines will be very durable."

A basic test is to run the engine for 300 hours, and then even faster for an additional 20 hours, at high engine speeds that regular drivers would never reach.

In another test, called thermal shock, the engine is chilled to very low temperatures and then run at high speeds; other tests include running with coolants and other fluids at various temperatures.

Hyundai doesn't run these tests on cars destined for the showroom, but rather, when designing the engines and their components.

"In the initial stages, we find a lot of components that break down," Han says.

"We find excessive wear in parts we don't expect. So we apply different materials, we reinforce the design, and we fix any parts that show weakness to solve the problem. We do tests beyond what any customer



would do, but since we are producing thousands of engines, we have to make sure we have reliability."

Han says that while some auto manufacturers

do 300-hour tests, "they normally do it for a small portion of their products. The big difference for us is that we perform this test on all of our engines."

Redline

- Severe engine testing goes beyond what's known as "redline."
- An engine contains a central crankshaft, which spins when pistons turn it.
- The engine speed is measured in revolutions per minute, or rpm, the number of times the shaft spins each minute. It's the number you see on the vehicle's tachometer.
- There is a limit to how fast everything can spin, and beyond that, an engine might suffer damage.
- This is redline: asking the engine's parts to move faster than is safe. The name comes from the red warning line usually found on high end of the tachometer.



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For more information about the Grip-Tite line, visit mygriptite.com.



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six-foot-wide by 12-footlong (182 x 364 centime-tre) deck that folds up into a five-by-eight-foot area, allowing it to be easily stored in most garages. Also included are 14-

inch chrome wheels, electronic drum brakes, LED taillights, loading ramps and plenty of tiedown locations.

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2008 F350 L/BOX CREW/C



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2008 HONDA RIDGELINE



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2010 DODGE 1500 CREW CAB SPORT 4X4



2008 DODGE 3500 O/C SLT L/B



2009 FORD F150 CREW/C FX4 XLT



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BOLT ON 53 HORSEPOWER

As if owners of the Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500 don't have quite enough power under foot, the K&N filter company has a new "63 Series Aircharger Intake Kit' that in testing boosted output of the supercharged 5.4-litre V8 by 53.7 horsepower.

For about \$320 US re-

tail, the system - essentially a custom-molded tube, cone filter and a sealed mating flange — part number 63-2571 presents incredible bang for the buck and uncovers what appears to be an obvious restriction in the stock system.

Visit knfilters.com for information about an airintake system for your vehicle.



JUST ROLL WITH IT

For serious do-it-yourself restoration, placing your car's basic structure on a "rotisserie" allows you to easily attack cleanup and body repairs from virtually every an-

One of the most effective versions the Top Gear crew has seen is the Roller Hoop from DSK Auto Products. The hoops can be easily rotat-

ed through 360 degrees and moved about the shop floor on their own option-

al detachable wheels. They also attach to your project vehicle through a series of steel jigs that can be cut to fit on the spot (the assembly video shows you how) or purchased from DSK.

Prices begin at about \$1,400 US and can be ordered through rollerhoop.com.

Fastback to the future



AUTO KNOW

JOE KNYCHA
WHEELBASE MEDIA
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

German automaker Audi is targeting a new class of vehicle with its A7 Sportback.

It's an elegant five-door model that the company says unites the character of a coupe with the comfort of a sedan and utility of a wagon.

"Targeting" is the functional word here.

Audi isn't inventing a new class so much as it's joining a long list of automakers that have sought on and off since the early 1940s to distinguish themselves with a roofline style known as the "fastback."

This design will be familiar to anyone with even a passing interest in automobiles; think back to the 1970s and the iconic Ford Mustang and Torino, the first Dodge Charger, Jaguar E-Type and Datsun 240Z, in which rooflines plunged dramatically in an extended sweep from the roof to the rear end, leaving no trace of a trunk compartment hanging ungainly behind the rear wheels.

Other more modern, iconic examples include the Porsche 356 and 911, Toyota Celica and the Aston Martin DB5, made wildly famous by the pas-

senger-ejecting, oil-slickspreading, tire-shredding sports car featured in the classic James Bond movie Goldfinger.

Many might tend to think of fastbacks as rakish two-door coupes, though numerous four-door sedans have received the treatment over the years, including the Oldsmobile Cutlass Salon and Buick Century of the early 1980s that some say clumsily brought the design back into fashion at that time.

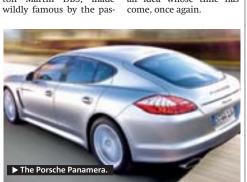
According to the Beaulieu Encyclopedia of the Automobile, the design concept actually stems from the early 1930s when automobile designs that were ahead of their time included "teardrop streamlining at the rear" and which would, 25 years later, come to be called fastback.

American fastbacks produced by the then Big Three automakers — Chrysler, Ford and General Motors — were known early on as "torned backs"

Motors — were known early on as "torpedo backs."

Merriam-Webster first recognized "fastback" as a definition in 1954, many years before the term "hatchback" was popularized and entered the dictionary in 1970.

Whether you're in the market for a ride that's visually exciting at the high end of the scale, or something more widely affordable, the fastback could be an idea whose time has come, once again.







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Last-gen 4Runner a solid bet

SECOND GFAR



Built for real-world off-road capability and all-season motoring confidence, the Toyota 4Runner has enjoyed generations of success with a loyal following of owners.

The last generation 4Runner was available in the Canadian marketplace from 2003 to 2009 and benefitted from V6 or V8 power, plenty of luxurious options and heaps of after-

The 4-1-1

- Model: 2003 to 2009 Toyota 4Runner
- Vehicle type:
- Approximate used price range:

\$11.000 to \$32.000

power with the V8 engine and an automatic transmission on every model.

As a real SUV (not a crossover or jacked-up station wagon), the 4Runner

As a real SUV (not a crossover or jacked-up station wagon), the 4Runner was engineered and built for off-roading, climbing steep, muddy hills and yanking boats out of the lake. If you don't need the full-out capability of a machine with a transfer-case 4x4 system and heavy-duty truck-frame construction, more fuel-efficient options are available.

market support for the cus-

tomization enthusiast. Look for up to 260 horse-

Ultimately, the 4Runner is most appropriate for those seeking off-road adventure, planning to hit the trails, or looking to build a gnarly off-road rig. Look for feature content including a sunroof, driver computer, heated leather, premium audio and much more.

What Owners Like

Last-generation 4Runner owners rate cargo capacity, driving confidence and rugged styling most highly.



A comfortable and quiet ride is also frequently reported.

What Owners Hate

Most owners love their 4Runners, and the majority complain almost exclusively about hefty gas consumption.

Common Issues

Shoppers are advised to

ensure the 4Runner's previous owner tackled any and all off-road driving carefully. Taking a machine like the 4Runner into some dirt and mud won't hurt it — but doing it carelessly might.

Get underneath and check for heavy denting or scrapes in the floor and frame rails.

These may be formed by contact with rocks or logs during careless navigation of rough trails, and could be a sign of abuse. They could also result in excessive rust.

Other signs of heavy off road use may include excessive mud or sand packed into the vehicle's lower radiator area or underside. Finally, inspect the exterior paint for heavy scratching. **The Verdict**

If the used 4Runner you're considering checks out, you're likely looking at a reliable, capable sidekick that'll serve your family for years to come.



Crossword

Across

1 Part of a Halloween costume 4 You say it to the doctor

7 Femur or fibula 8 Related to birds

10 Soft chapeau 11 "Dueling" instru-

ments 13 Burroughs duo

16 Distorted

17 Witticisms

18 Fish eggs 19 Inlet

20 Out of control

21 Investigate

23 Brittle 25 Three- — sloth

26 Objective

27 Mimic 28 Chef's garb

30 "Wham!"

33 Stevenson duo 36 Closed up tight

37 Broadcast

38 Small amounts

39 Caustic solutions

40 Sandra or Ruby

41 Remiss

1 Fret

3 1958 No. 1 hit for

5 Harts' mates

age

9 Venus de Milo's

2 Noted 1966 hurricane

the Silhouettes 4 - -garde

6 Muslims' pilgrim-

7 Tolerate

8 Lower in rank

27

feature 10 Texter's "incidentally" 12 Pry

14 Actress Campbell 15 Hair-raising shriek

19 Massachusetts cape

20 Have a bug 21 Vatican VIPs 22 Stunk

23 Maine — (breed of cat)

24 TV's Felix Unger 25 — Mahal

26 Alumni 28 Sitcom oldie,

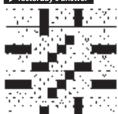
"Kate & 29 Academy fresh

man 30 Heat-resistant

31 Tributes in verse

32 Marry

34 Three feet 35 Informal greeting



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

					8	3		6
3	7		5	9				4
	6							
1		3			2	6		
4								2
		8	3			4		5
							4	
9				5	1		2	7
2		4	8					

How to play

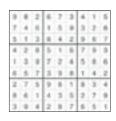
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

look at the weather

WEDNESDAY

Min -13° Max -11°



THURSDAY

Min -19° Max -17°

Send a

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Cristina, i feel so lucky to be with you. I am excited for all the great memories we are going to make during these holidays.

LOVE . YOUR MAN. ARTHUR

Ashley & Amy, You are two amazing young ladies and I am blessed to have you as my sisters. Enjoy your 12 days of Christmas;) LOVE, OMA

Happy 3 yr Anniversary Mi Amor. You are a friend for always and life. You had me at one dance. Knowing you was all my pleasure. I just want you to know that you are my teasure. Stay sweet and caring always. I will always and forever love you. L.F.A.A.

Sending all my love on this wintery morning. Growing old and wrinkly together is going to be quite the adventure and I feel so lucky to be doing it with you. BORK!

Today's horoscope

T Aries March 21-April 20

Reach out to employers today. If they make promises, get them to put them in writing. What they agree to today may not be what they want to do tomorrow

¥ Taurus April 21-May 21 The more you expect of other people today, the more disappointed you are likely to be. Saying something and doing it are two entirely different things, so don't count your chickens just yet.

II Gemini May 22-June 21 The planets warn if you act too fast today you are likely to do more harm than good. No matter how bad things may seem, there is still time to think before you take action.

you suspect that someone is not being completely truthful today, don't make a big fuss about it. Sooner or later, he or she will let you know what's aoina on.

Ω Leo July 23-Aug.23 You may be thinking about a career change but the planets urge you to sleep on the idea. Chances are you are not thinkwill bring new opportunities, so don't change yet.

is not really the best time to be looking a long way ahead. In fact, you should be looking at what is in front of you right now. The next step you take is the one that matters

G Cancer June 22-July 22 If

ing straight. The next few days

My Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 This

← Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Put

your worries out of your head and start believing that your dream will come true. Success is as much about imagination as it is about hard work.

M Scorpio oct. 24-Nov. 22 You can be judgmental at times, but today you must make a conscious effort not to be critical. You don't have to like what a friend or relative is doing but you have to accept that it's the

right move for him or her.

Nov. 23-Dec. 21 As a Fire sign, you are no stranger to taking risks. Over the next two or three days, you will be tempted to do things that most people would never attempt. But that's why you are special.

り Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

TODAY

Min -7° Max -7°

Make sure that any claims you make are backed by facts. Sometimes it can be fun to make things up, but you will lose others' trust and respect if you try it today.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You have an envious ability to see further and deeper than most people. But are you mak-

ing good use of it? Shouldn't you be helping others see the truth, too? H Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You

have suspicions that someone is telling you lies; but how do you prove it? Maybe it's not worth the effort. Thank them for their advice - and do what you were going to do anyway. SALLY BROMPTON



Michele McDougall (BID) BREAKFA

Weather Specialist
"My favourite part is reporting the

weather. It fascinates me, and as

we know around here, it's always

changing, keeping forecasters on

their toes". WEEKDAYS 6AM

You WIN! write it! Write a funny cap

tion for the image to the right and send it to plav@metronews.ca the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro



NEW Crossword and Suduko updated daily.







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